Message

From: Kobelski, Bruce [Kobelski.Bruce@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/15/2021 10:27:29 PM
To: Holsinger, Hannah [Holsinger.Hannah@epa.gov]
CC: Bates, William [bates.william@epa.gov]
Subject: IMPORTANT: QFRs on CUSS

Hannah and Bill- I looked at these QFRs and [redacted]

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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I popped everything into a WORD document for ease of review and editing and am sending it in the next email so please rely on that wording. [redacted] added a statement ref

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

I will be checking emails tomorrow from approx.. 7:30 until 9:15 and then have to step away for about 45 minutes and then will be back well before the UIC call.

From: Holsinger, Hannah <Holsinger.Hannah@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:57 PM
To: Kobelski, Bruce <Kobelski.Bruce@epa.gov>
Cc: Bates, William <bates.william@epa.gov>
Subject: QFRs on CUSS

Afternoon Bruce,
We received the below questions for the record following the Administrators hearing on CUSS. The below draft responses have been provided for our review. Please let me know if you have any suggested edits by 9am, note we may need OAR input.

Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage:

1. Carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) is a critical component for reducing the United States' carbon dioxide emissions and allowing us to continue to burn out fossil fuels cleanly in power generation. The Energy Act of 2020 included several provisions to support the buildout of CCUS, including the USE IT Act.

    a. Do you believe that CCUS is necessary to reach net-zero emissions?

    RESPONSE: The Administration supports large-scale sequestration efforts that leverage the best science and prioritize community engagement. To reach an ambitious goal of net-zero emissions economy-wide by 2050, the US must capture, transport, and permanently sequester significant amounts of CO2. The scientific consensus is that both CCUS and carbon dioxide removal (CDR) will play an important role in decarbonization efforts globally.

    b. Will you commit to accelerating the development and deployment of CCUS?

    RESPONSE: The Administration supports large-scale sequestration efforts that leverage the best science and prioritize community engagement. Accelerating

responsible development of CCUS to make it widely available, cost-effective, and rapidly scalable is a top priority climate solution.

c. Will you commit to supporting the build out of the infrastructure needed to deploy CCUS and store captured carbon, including pipelines?

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d. Will you commit to ensuring that the Administration does not put additional regulatory barrier in place to hinder the development of carbon dioxide pipelines?

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e. Will you commit to ensuring that all reports that the Administration is required to issue under the Act will be released within the required time frames?

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f. Will you commit to ensuring that any other regulatory barriers, such as the New Source Review program, are structured in a way to allow us to retrofit our existing coal- and natural gas-fired units with carbon capture technology?

RESPONSE: When considering regulatory policies related to the power sector, EPA will adhere to science and the law—including our obligations under the Clean Air Act. EPA also will consider relevant market trends and technological innovations, including advances in CCS technology.

g. What regulatory actions will EPA and the Administration take to ensure we can safely store captured carbon dioxide underground without additional red tape?

RESPONSE: When considering regulatory policies related to the power sector, EPA will adhere to science and the law—including our obligations under the Clean Air Act. EPA also will consider relevant market trends and technological innovations, including advances in CCS technology. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) the Federal government has an existing regulatory framework for injection wells that is rigorous and capable of managing permitting and review actions while protecting the water and the environment, public health and safety as CCUS projects move forward

1. Section 102 of subtitle S of the Fiscal Year 2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act – now Public Law 116-260 – contains many provisions to support the development and deployment of carbon capture, utilization, and storage. EPA has many statutory obligations in this section that are supposed to be done within a defined time, including under Clean Air Act section 103.

a. Since the Administration's budget letter does not call for funding for this activity, does this mean the Administration does not plan to use its Federal funding to implement it?

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b. If EPA is attempting to comply with its legal requirements, has it met its deadlines or is there any reasonable basis to conclude it will not produce what the law asks within the allotted time?

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c. What is the status of EPA establishing an "efficient, orderly, and responsible" permitting process under its statutes for carbon capture, utilization, and storage, projects?

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Thank you,
Hannah

Hannah Holsinger, MPH
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